

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 20, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2069**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Maienschein**

February 20, 2014

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An act to add Section 120393 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to immunizations.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2069, as amended, Maienschein. Immunizations: influenza.

Under existing law, the State Department of Public Health administers various programs for the protection of public health. Existing law requires the department to submit a biennial report to the Legislature on the immunization status of young children in the state and the improvements made in ongoing methods of immunization outreach and education in communities where immunization levels are disproportionately low.

This bill would require the department to ~~annually~~ post specified educational information regarding influenza disease and the availability of influenza vaccinations on the department's Internet Web site ~~prior to the annual influenza season~~, and also would authorize the department to use additional available resources to educate the public regarding influenza, including, among other things, public service announcements.

The bill would also make legislative findings and declarations relating to the influenza virus.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a serious virus  
4 that can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.  
5 The best way to prevent influenza is by getting an influenza vaccine  
6 each year.

7 (b) Complications of influenza can include bacterial pneumonia,  
8 ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of  
9 chronic medical conditions, including congestive heart failure,  
10 asthma, and diabetes.

11 (c) Most experts believe that influenza viruses spread mainly  
12 by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk.  
13 These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are  
14 nearby. Less often, a person might also get the flu by touching a  
15 surface or object that has the influenza virus on it and then touch  
16 their own mouth, eyes, or nose.

17 (d) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
18 (CDC) recommends that everyone who is at least six months of  
19 age or older should get an influenza vaccine. This recommendation  
20 has been in place since February 24, 2010, when the CDC's  
21 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted for  
22 "universal" influenza vaccination in the United States in order to  
23 expand protection against the spread of the influenza virus to more  
24 people.

25 (e) The CDC estimates that the national and California seasonal  
26 influenza rates for the 2012–13 influenza season of individuals  
27 who are six months of age or older are 45 percent and 44.2 percent,  
28 respectively.

29 (f) The public health implications related to influenza  
30 vaccinations are important to the State of California because an  
31 influenza vaccination can prevent a potentially deadly virus  
32 infection and the costs associated with hospitalization can be  
33 reduced.

1 SEC. 2. Section 120393 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
2 to read:

3 120393. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall  
4 ~~annually~~ post educational information, in accordance with the  
5 latest recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and  
6 Prevention, regarding influenza disease and the availability of  
7 influenza vaccinations on the department's Internet Web site ~~prior~~  
8 ~~to the annual influenza season~~. It is the intent of the Legislature  
9 to increase the average number of Californians who receive an  
10 influenza vaccination.

11 (b) The educational information posted on the department's  
12 Internet Web site pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include, but not  
13 be limited to, all of the following:

14 (1) The health benefits of an influenza vaccination.

15 (2) That the influenza vaccination may be a covered benefit for  
16 those with health insurance coverage.

17 (3) That influenza vaccinations may be available for a minimal  
18 fee to those individuals who do not have health insurance coverage.

19 (4) *The locations where free or low-cost vaccinations are*  
20 *available.*

21 (c) The department may use additional available resources to  
22 educate the public about the information described in subdivision  
23 (b), including public service announcements, media events, public  
24 outreach to individuals and groups who are susceptible to influenza,  
25 and any other preventive and wellness education efforts  
26 recommended by public health officials.